

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

One page 1, beneath the heading "CROSS REFERENCES" please amend the following paragraph as shown below:

This application is a continuation of application Serial no. 10/001,776, filed October 18, 2001 (now U.S. Patent 6,663,835, issued December 16, 2003) which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/513,013, filed February 25, 2000 (now U.S. Patent 6,375,626, issued April 23, 2002) which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. ~~09/267~~ 09/267,179, filed March 12, 1999 (now U.S. Patent 6,368,563, issued April 9, 2002) all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

On page 10, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 as follows:

The needle 20" is surrounded by a ferrule 18". The ferrule 18" hold the needle 20" with a distal tip 22" (i.e., a penetration end) extending from the ferrule 18". The needle 20" terminates at a discharge end 24" (numbered only in Figs. 16 and 17). The penetration end 22" protrudes from a radially spaced ring end 26" of the ferrule 18". To enhance fluid collection, distal tip 22" is bent as is more fully described in commonly assigned U.S. ~~patent application Ser. No. 09/427,161 filed October 26, 1999~~ (~~also filed January 25, 2000~~) as PCT) Patent No. 6,702,791. The ferrule 18" has a slot 25" to expose needle 20" so that adhesive can be applied to the needle 20" to adhere the needle 20" to the ferrule 18" during assembly.

On page 11, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3 as follows:

Preferably (but not necessarily), the hub is hydrophobic. The surface tension of the fluid prevents the fluid from discharging through the narrow annular space 17" or vent hole 31". Vent holes 37" are formed through the strip 13" from the capillary space 48". When fluid is wicked from the collection well or bore 17" into the capillary space 48", the vent holes 37" permit air to escape from the capillary space 48". Simultaneously, the vent hole 31" permits a larger volume of air to enter the bore 17" so that the capillary wicking of the fluid is not acting against a vacuum. Vent hole ~~47"~~ 31" is optional since the annular space 17" also provides a venting opportunity utilizing air flow through spacing tolerances in the ferrule 18" and adapter 27". The adapter 27" may be provided with a vent slot 41" (Fig. 13) to admit air to vent 31" and space 17".